

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 7-11, 18-22, and 29-33 are pending, with Claims 7, 9, 18, 20, 29, and 31 being independent. Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 12-14, 16, 17, 23-25, 27, and 28 are cancelled herein without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Claim 20 is amended for reasons unrelated to patentability to correct a minor typographical error. No new matter has been added.

Requested Action

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding rejections in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the allowance of Claims 7-11, 18-22, and 29-33.

The Statement of Reasons for Allowance of Claims 7-11, 18-22, and 29-33 at page 19 of the Office Action states that “the newly added limitation with ignoring dependent nodes if they are not active and the various other limitations, in the specific combination present therein, are not in the prior art singly, and it appears to [the] examiner than an obviousness rejection involving 4-5 references against the independent claims would [be] at best unwieldy and would lack motivation for such a combination in any case.” But Applicant notes that independent Claims 7, 9, 18, 20, 29, and 31 do not recite the specific language “ignoring dependent nodes if

they are not active". Nevertheless, they are allowable for the unique combination of features recited therein.

Substantive Rejections

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 12-14, 16, 17, 23-25, 27, and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over the patent to Politis (U.S. Patent No. 5,745,121) in view of the patent to Curtis et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,330,003 B1), eligible under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), and the patent to Katzenberger (U.S. Patent No. 5,970,496). Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 12-14, 16, 17, 23-25, 27, and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the patent to Webb et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,471,568 A) in view of the patent to Curtis et al., eligible under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), and the patent to Katzenberger.

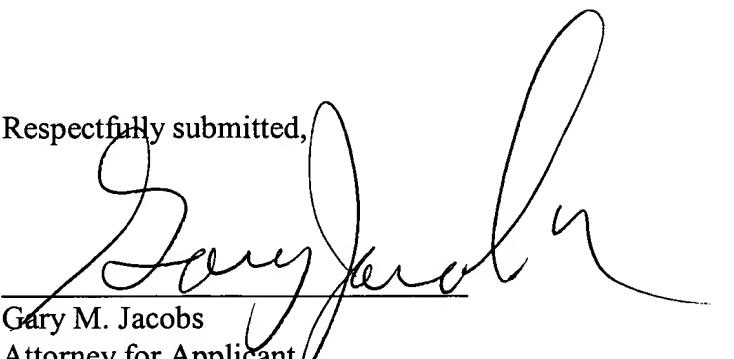
In response, while not conceding the propriety of the rejections, Applicant has herein cancelled Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 12-14, 16, 17, 23-25, 27, and 28. Therefore, these rejections are now moot.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the application is now in allowable form. Therefore, early passage to issue is respectfully solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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